

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

February 3, 1976


Dear Mrs. Evans:

I remember very well meeting the charming Mrs. Evans. Thank you for the thoughtful letter. Your analysis -- as I am sure you know -- is in conflict with strongly motivated forces.

Let us pray that any improperly motivated people readjust and find peace for themselves. I believe you have found that peace.

The President wanted you to have this copy of his recent Proclamation.

Sincerely,

  
Theodore C. Marrs  
Special Assistant to the President

Mrs. James J. Evans

Enclosure

OASD/ISA INTRAOFFICE CONTROL SHEET				DATE 11 March 1976		SECURITY CLASSIFICATION	
SUBJECT:				LOG NO. I-2623/76		CURRENT SUSPENSE DATE:	
Ltr to Mrs. James J. Evans,							
SUMMARY (Describe briefly the requirement, background and action recommended):							
SEQ NO	INTERNAL COORDINATION	INITIAL	DATE	SEQ NO	INTERNAL COORDINATION	INITIAL	DATE
	ASSISTANT SECRETARY	S			DASD-P/PL&NSC AFF	P	
	EXECUTIVE OFFICER	XO			DIR, P/PL&NSC AFF	PD	
3	RECORDS & CONTROL	RC			DEP DIR, NSC AFF	PH	
	PRINCIPAL ASSISTANT	SA			DIR, MBFR TF	PF	
	DIR, LAW OF SEA TF	LS					
	DEP FORMC&TO	TO		2	DASD-INT'L ECON & PW/MIA AFF B		
	SPEC ASST FOR CONG REL	DS			DIRECTOR, IEA	BD	
	PRINCIPAL DASD	D			DIR, ST & D	IT	
	MILITARY ASST	DM		1	PRINCIPAL ADV (PW/MIA)	PW	<i>Chm</i> 11/3/76
	SPEC ASST TO PDASD	DT			DASD FOR SA	M	
	DIR, FMR AFFAIRS	IF			DIR, SA PLANS & POLICY	MD	
	ASST FOR ADMINISTRATION	AO			PLANS & PROGRAMS DIV	MP	
	DASD FOR EA&PAC AFF	A			POLICY DIV	MN	
	DIR, EA&PAC REG	AD			DEF SCTY ASST AGCY		
	DASD EUR&MATO AFF	E			DIRECTOR	T	
	DIR, EURANATO AFF	ED			DEP DIR	TD	
	DIR, I-A REGION	IA			SPEC ASST	YB	
	DASD NE, AF&SA AFF	N			COMPTROLLER	TC	
	DIR, NE&SA REG	NE			DIR FOR SALES NEG	TS	
	DIR, AFRICAN REG	NA					
COORDINATION OUTSIDE ISA (Continue on reverse)							
	ACTIVITY	NAME AND TITLE			INITIAL	DATE	
NAME, DIRECTORATE, EXTENSION, AND SIGNATURE OF ORIGINATING OFFICIAL:							
Major Maney, PW/MIA, 54133 <i>Elizabeth Maney</i>							

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PREVIOUS EDITIONS OF THIS FORM ARE OBSOLETE.

SECURITY CLASSIFICATION



7 January 1976

Dr. Theodore C. Marrs  
Special Ass't to the President  
The White House  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Dr. Marrs:

I was going through some papers I had and came across a letter you had sent to Mr. Carl Hopper of the National League of Families. It reminded me that I had promised myself I would write you months ago and never did.

I met you in 1972 in San Francisco at a Reserve convention at the Fairmont and again at a Change of Command at NAS Alameda where you were the guest speaker. My husband, CDR James J. Evans was missing in action at the time. He was the first Navy man missing in action in the war and was shot down 2 April 65 over Laos.

I was very active in the National League as Western Regional Coordinator, State Coordinator, Board member etc. I gave hundreds of speeches on behalf of the problem, studied war and southeast Asia, and traveled to Laos. In 1974 when it was obvious the National League was only interested in villifying the United States government and maintaining their positions and continue to draw the pay of the serviceman or have it acquire on the books; I resigned.

It was a tragedy to force wives to have to request their husbands be declared killed in action because of the selfishness of a few. Not only wives, but many parents had to do the same thing because some lawyer thought he would make a name for himself or some sisters realized their parents were getting older and they would finally get their brother's money or the people in Viva might finally have to get a job.

We all know there is no one else alive and war is not noted for being neat and tidy. There are still 80,000 missing--bodies not recovered from World War II. The men who went to war knew what they were doing and went willingly. They knew the risks and would turn over in their graves to know a debate still goes on whether they are dead or not.

The Defense department and State departments were most helpful to all. Some mistakes were made but with such large numbers and turnover in personnel some are to be expected. Many of the families have no idea of the terrain or the sophisticated planes and weaponry being used etc. It was time to end it a long time ago. Now, with the Congressional Commission I hope finally a statement will be made that everything possible was done. Very dedicated men from all services worked on this problem and Dr. Shields was outstanding. I would hope the services could begin reviewing cases as they should have in 1973.

There are many families who are just waiting for it to end and do not participate in organizations, letter writing etc. Do not delay any longer.

Sincerely,  
Maerose J. Evans